

THE
SAILOR'S MAGAZINE,

FOR THE YEAR ENDING

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"The abundance of the Sea shall be converted unto thee."

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P R E F A C E.

THE SAILOR'S MAGAZINE has now completed its thirtieth year. As an organ of the American Seamen's Friend Society, and devoted to the work of moral improvement among seamen, it has filled an important place among our religious periodicals, and one occupied by itself alone. These thirty volumes embody a mass of information concerning the moral condition of seamen and commerce which can be found no where else.

It is believed that this cause is destined to receive increased attention, and a much wider interest from the religious community than heretofore. God is making this a great commercial nation,—foremost, with a single exception, on the globe. The rapid increase of trade, travel, and various intercourse with other nations, the improved facilities for that intercourse, the multiplication of steam vessels, and the constant advance of the science of the sea, all show us that COMMERCE, more than ever, is to be one of the great occupations of human industry, and one of the chief sources of national wealth and power. As a christian people we can not be indifferent to the moral interests of that commerce—we must not neglect the many thousand souls of those who, in its service, pass their earthly probation. For their own sakes, and for the sake of their influence upon the world, which is reached by them to its remotest shores we must supply to them the gospel, which alone can elevate and save.

In the promotion of this work the MAGAZINE will continue to labor as heretofore. We ask for it the patronage and aid of all those who love the souls of seamen. Especially do we ask an increase of pecuniary support. So large now is its free list of Life Members, Pastors, &c., that it is published at a considerable cost to the Society beyond the receipts from it. An addition of a few thousand subscribers,—accompanied with *prompt pay*,—would relieve the Society of this burden, while it would also greatly promote an interest in the cause of the sailor. Will not each one who now receives the MAGAZINE, lend a copy to his neighbor, and if possible send us his name as a subscriber?

The little sheet appended to the MAGAZINE—the LIFE BOAT—has already been productive of much good to the cause. It is struck off separately and furnished at a very cheap rate to congregations and Sabbath Schools, and in many cases also is circulated gratuitously. Many commendations have been received of its design, and execution; and we hope for it a wide circulation, especially among the children.

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{*By mistake the pages of the January number were printed as if for February. To distinguish between them, those for January have the letter J. annexed.*}

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